GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Seeds – Community Managed Seed System (CMSS) through Mana Vittana Kendralu (MVKs) – Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) – Approved- Orders – Issued.

AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION (AGRI.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.744. Dated: 07-11-2016.
Read:

From the Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, letter No.SC(5)/17/2015, dated:19.09.2016.

ORDER:

In the letter read above, the Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur has stated that Groundnut seed is being distributed under CMSS programme through Mana Vittana Kendralu since 2014-15 and during Kharif -2016 about 10000 qtls of Groundnut seed and 40 qtls of different crop seed under Navadhanya scheme. The Programme is meant to promote Production and distribution of seed locally from farmer to farmer and to promote the supervision of farmers organisations over the quality of seed. Through this process quality seed can be arranged at lower prices to farmers. More important, it ensures timely availability of quality seed at the time of sowing at reasonable prices and insures from any abnormal price rise on account of the off season. Further, Department of Agriculture will not be at the mercy of private seed suppliers when the market prices of seeds are rising.

2. A series of meetings were held by Spl Chief Secretary (A&C) with Director of Agriculture, APSSDCL and WASSAN, to finalize Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) for strengthening MVKs and a draft Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) has been submitted by the Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.

3. Government after careful examination, hereby approved the Standard Operational Procedure for strengthening Mana Vittana Kendralu (MVKs) which was annexed to the Government Order. The Director of Agriculture is further informed that latest technology and equipment be used to supply best quality seeds to farmers.

4. The Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur shall take further necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

B.RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (AGRI) (FAC)

To
The Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

Annexure to G.O.Rt.No.744, Agriculture & Cooperation (Agri.II) Department, dated:07.11.2016

Standard Operational Procedure for

"**Community Management Seed Systems (CMSS)**"

through **Mana Vittana Kendralu** (MVK's)

1. **Preamble** : Government have decided to support Farmers organisations called Mana Vittana Kendram in Seed Production and Seed distribution under Community Managed Seed Systems (CMSS) programme. Government had already taken a decision to bring CMSS Programme under Buffer Seed Stock Operations (BSSO) and has given directions to APSSDCL vide Lr.No.SC(4)265/15, dated 28.04.2016 to extend all financial help to CMSS from the funds raised for BSSO. The Mana Vittana Kendralu (MVKs) have been facilitated by a network of Facilitating Agencies (FA) (Non Governmental Organisations) in Anantapuramu, Kurnool, Chittoor. These FAs are supported by WASSAN, the Lead Technical Agency for the Agriculture Department. CMSS is being expanded to all 13 districts of the State. The Director of Agriculture will communicate the list of Mana Vittana Kendralu to the APSSDC well in advance of the season, each year.

   This Programme is meant to promote production and distribution of seed locally from farmer to farmer and to promote the supervision of the MVKs over the entire seed chain. This initiative ensures timely availability of quality seed at reasonable prices, and insures the Department and farmers from any abnormal price rise.

   This system will also reduce the subsidy burden on the Government and more importantly reduce the cost to the farmer. This will help in meeting the seed replacement rate with desired varieties.

2. **Planning :**
   a. The quantities of seed required for each crop/varieties will be planned by the MVKs in co-ordination with the Department of Agriculture officials well in advance for both Kharif & Rabi season.
   b. MPEOs/AEOs will be attached to each MVK to coordinate the program from Department of Agriculture.
   c. MVKs will place indent to MPEO/AEOs for each crop/variety for Breeder and Foundation seeds. These will be supplied by ANGRAU and APSSDC respectively.
   d. For each MVK, the quantities of seed planned for procurement of each crop/ variety will be arrived at basing on the seed demand and the distribution carried out in the previous years, both in Kharif and Rabi.
   e. Based on the demand, the area required for producing sufficient quantities of seed will be finalised.
   f. MVKs have to submit the list of growers who have taken up the seed production and register them with APSSCA under CMSS programme. The list should be sent to MAO and JDA under intimation to DM (Seeds), APSSDCL.

g. Required training will be provided to seed producing farmers as per local needs and provisions of the Seed Village Programme.

3. <u>Procurement Process Steps :</u>

a. MVKs and FAs along with MPEOs, AEOs and MAOs will prepare the Mid season report (consisting of area and expected yield) and furnish it to JDA and DM, APSSDCL. Based on Mid-Season Report, JDA will release the incidental charges to different stakeholders. A time line for submitting the Mid-season report will be indicated crop-wise.

b. The Proposals for release of advance to MVKs as working capital based on Mid season report will be recommended by the Lead Technology Agency(LTA). APSSDCL will provide funds well in advance to MVKs much before the procurement starts and these dates will be indicated in the MoU with APSSDCL. The funds will be provided in two instalments as per the request of MVKs.

c. The LTA along with Facilitating Agencies has to supervise the effective utilisation of the funds, which are released to each MVK as advance under this programme.

d. Seed producers have to pay seed certification fee to APSSCA. APSSDCL will pay processing, supervision fee and tags cost to APSSCA. The seed sale price includes Tag cost, Processing charges, Service charges of agencies for collection and deposition of non-subsidy portion to APSSDCL bank account and APSSDCL service charges.

4. <u>Procurement Price Fixation and Payments</u>**:**

i. A District level committee will be set up with JD, Agriculture, 2 MVK representatives, 2 seed farmers, DM APSSDCL, ADA Marketing and one member from the designated agency as members.

ii. For Price Fixation, the committee at the district level will fix the procurement price at MSP (minimum support price) + 20% mark up for seeds as the initial price for procurement by MVKs. Subsequently, the sale price will be fixed by Committee duly considering all other costs.

iii. MVKs will start procurement at the procurement price fixed by the district level committee and this will be paid as an advance to the seed growers.

iv. MVK will distribute the seed at the sale price decided by the District Level committee approved by the Director of Agriculture.

v. After the final procurement and sale prices are fixed at the state level, the difference in subsidy amount arising between the CMSS and general seed distribution will be shared as per the following :

1. 50% to the seed farmers as bonus through MVK
2. 50% as incentive to MVK.

5. Roles of Various Agencies :

(i) MVK (Mana Vittana Kendram) :

MVK for a cluster of GPs is the base institution system for CMSS.

1. Produce and distribute the seed following necessary protocols.
2. Responsible for identification of a storage space and safe upkeep of the seed procured.
3. Responsible for distribution of seeds, collection of payments and re-payments to APSSDCL as per the procedure and guidelines issued by the Department of Agriculture on subsidized seed.
4. Responsible for maintaining the necessary records, bank books and related accounts.
5. The accounts and transactions will be subjected to audit after completion of the distribution.
6. MVK can hire services of any organisation for handling the cash and depositing into APSSDCL Account. The cash handing costs will be built into the seed sale price.

(ii) Facilitating Agency (Local NGO):

1. Supports MVK and ensures that the MVK follows all necessary protocols with due diligence.
2. Supports MVK in preparing all the records and accounts and ensures their correctness/ due diligence.
3. Supports and ensures maintenance of accounts, transactions and payments.
4. Responsible for prompt reporting, support and capacity building of MVK's.
5. Responsible for re-payment of Loans/ advance taken from APSSDCL.
6. Ensure distribution of agreement quantity to the farmers within MVK operational area.
7. Submits the required documents to MAO and JDA after completion of the seed distribution.

(iii) Lead Technical Agency (WASSAN) :

Design and facilitation of the program, collaboration at various levels, capacity building, documentation support and policy Development.

1. Compiling the demand for Loans from MVK based on the provisional estimate of the seed production; recommend the same to APSSDCL through Director of Agriculture for release of budgets.
2. Verification of stocks/ books and transactions of the MVK's.
3. Co-ordinating with the FAs and supporting them, for smooth repayment of loans by MVK's to APSSDCL.

(iv) Department of Agriculture :

1. Provides administrative and technical support to the program; Provides finances and monitors the program.
2. Develop policy and facilitate scaling up of the program across other districts.
3. Jointly inspects the storage and sign storage declaration form.
4. Makes an official allocation of seed in storage to the MVK villages.
5. Gets the UCs and Invoices from MAOs and ADAs after submission of required documents by MVKs and FAs.
6. Makes payment of transaction costs to MVK, facilitating agency and Lead technical agency.

(v) APSSCA :

1. Seed certification will be done by the APSSCA against payment of certification fee by the seed farmers as per the norms.
2. APSSCA will do inspection visits to seed producing fields to ensure the quality seed.
3. Responsible for nurturing and supervision of Vittana Mitras (para seed – certifiers). They will liaise with ANGRAU, LTA, FAs to facilitate seed certification.

(vi) ANGRAU :

1. Agriculture University supplies Breeder seed to CMSS
2. It provides technical backstopping where necessary for farmers.
3. It also meets the requirements of training the Vitthana Mitrulu (para-certifiers).

(vii) APSSDC :

1. Providing loan amount of the estimated stocks as per the recommendation of Directorate of Agriculture as well as the Designated Agency.
2. Extending Technical know-how on seed storage and in improving the institutional capacity of MVKs.
3. Any other activity in the interests of making the MVK based program a success.